CHARLTON COMICS

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NO. 83
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GHOSTLY TALES FROM THE HAUNTED HOUSE

...THE APPRENTICE WIELDING THE BRUSH IS PAINTING A PORTRAIT OF HIS KING...BUT HIS EYE IS DIM AND HIS THIN, TREMBLING HAND HAS LOST ITS CUNNING...

...SO THE MASTER PUNISHES THE APPRENTICE FOR HIS BUNGLING!

THE WORK of GENIUS"

UNFORTUNATELY, THE HEAVY-HANDED MASTER'S PUNISHMENT IS FATAL...AND HE HAS TO FINISH THE PORTRAIT HIMSELF! WITH THE LAST STROKE, HE SLEEPS EXHAUSTEDLY...AND STILL A THIRD ARTIST GOES TO WORK ON THE PORTRAIT OF THE KING!

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ELLISTON BLYE WAS THE TOAST OF MERRIE OLDE ENGLAND...BUT BLYE'S REAL TALENT LAY IN THE SLENDER INDENTURED SLAVE IMPRISONED IN BLYE'S ATTIC! BLYE TOOK ALL THE GLORY...UNTIL HE PAINTED KING HENRY XXIX'S PORTRAIT...AND SAW THAT IT TRULY WAS...
"THE WORK of GENIUS"
YOU WILL BE SUITABLY REWARDED FOR THIS, BLYE!
EXECUTIONER!
THIS LAWYER HAS NO IDEA THAT SHE'S A CENTURY AND A HALF OLD WITCH...BUT HE'LL KNOW BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR...
"SECOND HONEYMOON"
WHILE NATHAN WAS SCHEMING TO GET HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW'S MILLIONS, THE RICH INVALID MADE IT EASY FOR HIM...HE LEFT HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE, WITHHOLDING JUST ONE THING...A SECRET CHAMBER! READ...
"ALL BUT ONE ROOM"
D-671
GHOSTLY TALES

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MR. DEDD

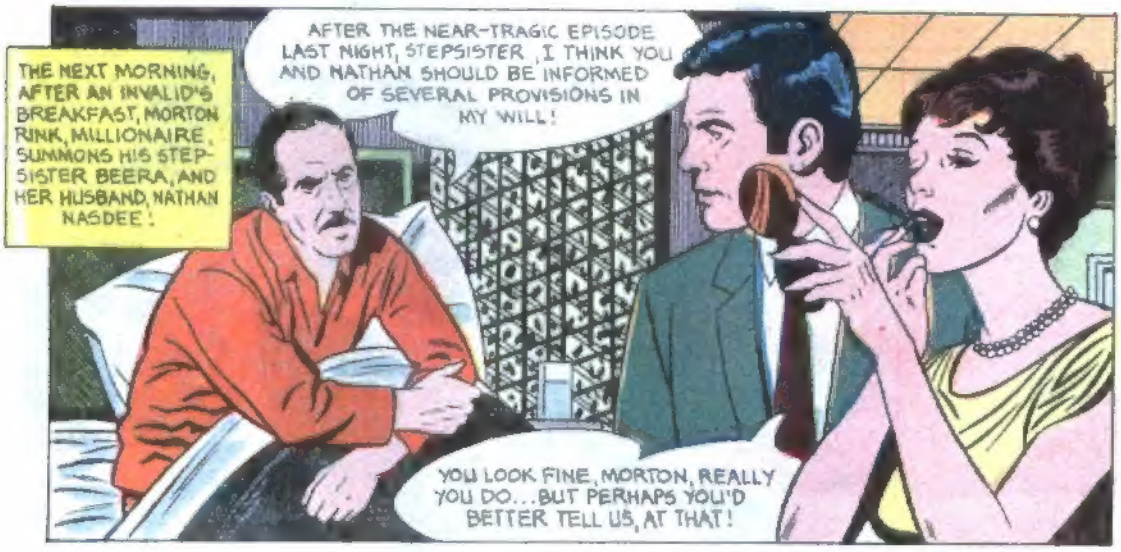
ALL BUT ONE ROOM

COME ALONG, DEAR READER, LET US VISIT THE HOME OF MORTON RINK, A MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING... INCLUDING A BAD HEART, AND A VERY GREEDY BROTHER-IN-LAW!
FIRE, MORTON, WAKE UP! THE HOUSE IS BURNING!
PAIII

UHNNN... MY HEART! N-NEED A PILL...NEED A PILL... NOW!
NATHAN, FIND THEM FOR ME!
BE RIGHT THERE, MORTON! SOON AS I DOUSE THIS FIRE!
BUT I'M AFRAID WE WON'T FIND YOUR PILLS, BECAUSE I HAVE THEM HERE!
1
O-449

OHHH...THANK HEAVEN...I FOUND ONE! THERE... THAT'S BETTER!
YOU FOUND ONE? WHERE? I MEAN...YOU'RE VERY LUCKY!

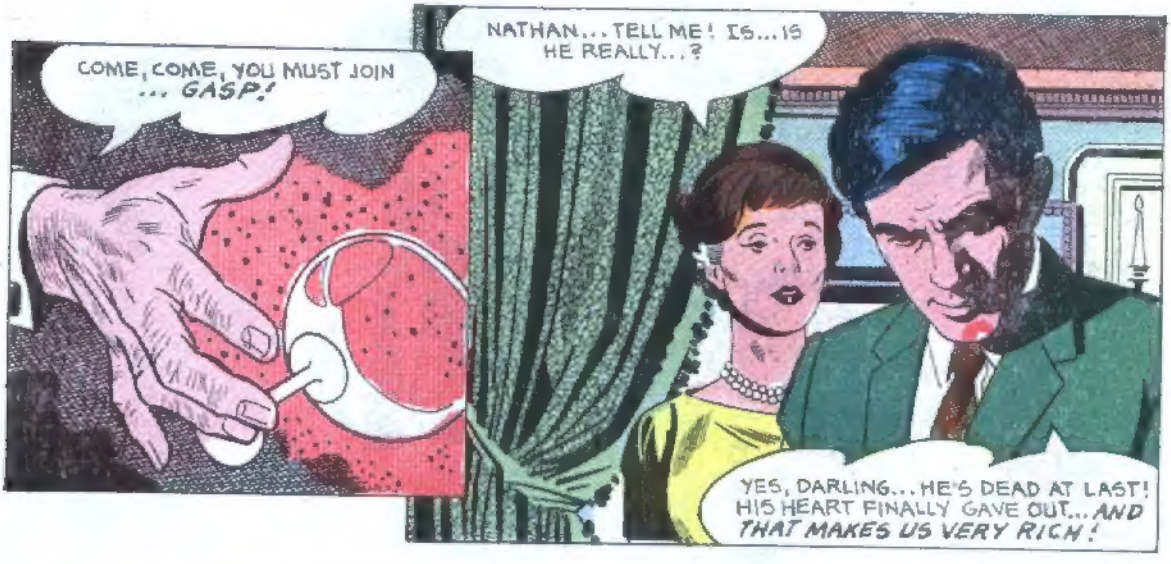
YES...BUT I ALWAYS KEEP A SPARE PILL AROUND... JUST IN CASE MY SUPPLY IS LOST... OR STOLEN! I WAS INDEED VERY LUCKY... THIS TIME!


THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER AN INVALID'S BREAKFAST, MORTON RINK, MILLIONAIRE, SUMMONS HIS STEP-SISTER BEERA, AND HER HUSBAND, NATHAN NASDEE!
AFTER THE NEAR-TRAGIC EPISODE LAST NIGHT, STEPSISTER, I THINK YOU AND NATHAN SHOULD BE INFORMED OF SEVERAL PROVISIONS IN MY WILL!
YOU LOOK FINE, MORTON, REALLY YOU DO...BUT PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TELL US, AT THAT!

I'VE NEVER APPROVED OF YOUR NAGGING WAYS, BEERA, BUT YOU WILL INHERIT MY ESTATE, WHICH CONSISTS OF THIS HOUSE AND EVERYTHING IN IT! I ASK ONE THING IN RETURN...THIS WAY, NATHAN!
YOU MUST, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, ENTER THIS ROOM! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

WE UNDERSTAND, MORTON... BUT WHY? WHAT'S IN THERE? IS IT MONEY? JEWELS? VALUABLE STOCKS?
MY HEART CONDITION IS INCURABLE... I CANNOT LIVE MUCH LONGER! I TELL YOU NOT TO GO INTO THAT ROOM FOR A GOOD REASON... YOU MUST OBEY ME!

ON A STRICT INVALID'S DIET, MORTON RINK DINES ON EVERYTHING HIS DOCTOR FORBIDS HIM TO EAT!
FORGET THE DOCTOR, MORTON... EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BEERA... HERE'S TO A SHORT AND HAPPY LIFE!


COME, COME, YOU MUST JOIN ... GASP!
NATHAN... TELL ME! IS... IS HE REALLY...?
YES, DARLING... HE'S DEAD AT LAST! HIS HEART FINALLY GAVE OUT... AND THAT MAKES US VERY RICH!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

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THEN, THE READING OF THE WILL!
YOU GET THE HOUSE, AND TOTAL ASSETS OF $27.58, INCLUDING A 6¢ STAMP FOUND IN A DESK DRAWER!
B-BUT MORTON WAS A MILLIONAIRE... WHERE IS ALL HIS MONEY... WHERE?
HE HAD BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY CONVERTING ALL HIS ASSETS INTO CASH, EVER SINCE HE BECAME INTERESTED IN SUPERNATURAL STUDIES! I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE MONEY IS NOW!
IT'S A CINCH HE DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH HIM, YOU FOOL!
WA-A-/-/-T, A MINUTE! I KNOW WHERE HE HID IT ALL! COME ON, BEERA... WE'RE GOING HOME!
NATHAN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS! TELL ME!
YOU KNEW IT, DIDN'T YOU? WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE ROOM... WHERE NATHAN NASDEE WAS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER!
NATHAN, YOU KNOW WHAT MY STEP-BROTHER TOLD US! WE CAN'T GO IN THE ROOM!
BEERA, YOU ARE A NAG! IT'S A WONDER YOU WERE EVER ADOPTED! NOW, BE QUIET!
4

YOU CAN GO IN THERE IF YOU LIKE, NATHAN... BUT I WON'T!
GO AWAY, BEERA... MORTON HID THAT MONEY SOMEWHERE... IT'S GOT TO BE HERE!

HERE'S THE KEY... NOW WE SHALL SEE WHAT WE SHALL SEE!

THE DOOR IS OPEN NOW... AND NATHAN'S GREEDY LITTLE PAW PUSHES IT OPEN ENOUGH TO VENTURE INSIDE!
IS THIS ALL THE LIGHT THERE IS? IT'S BARELY ENOUGH TO SEE BY! WHAT'S THAT?

A VAULT... HE MUST'VE HID HIS MILLIONS IN THERE! I KNEW IT!

HERE'S AN ENVELOPE... IT'S FROM MORTON... TO ME!

DEAR NATHAN, IT SAYS! YOU HAVE DISOBEYED ME, BUT NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU IF YOU LEAVE THIS VAULT UNOPENED AND DEPART AT ONCE! SIGNED, MORTON!
—THE FOOL!—

BAH... WHAT AM I, A CHILD? THERE MAY BE TEN OR EVEN TWENTY MILLION IN THIS VAULT! THERE... IT'S OPEN!

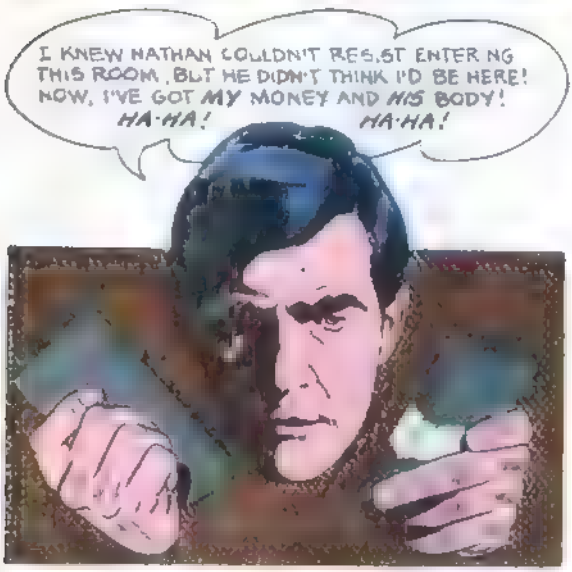
IT... IT'S ALL HERE... STOCKS, BONDS, CASH... I'M A MILLIONAIRE!

LOOK MORE CLOSELY, NATHAN... SOMETHING ELSE IS IN THE VAULT!
HUH? WHA-? N-NO, IT C-CAN'T BE!

NOW WE ALL KNOW THE SECRET OF THIS ROOM INTO WHICH NATHAN WAS ORDERED NOT TO ENTER!
YOU WERE WARNED, NATHAN ...BUT YOU DIDN'T OBEY!
I KNOW WHAT Y-YOU'RE TRYING TO DO... BUT Y-YOU CAN'T... YOU'RE DEAD!
I'M COMING FOR YOU NATHAN!

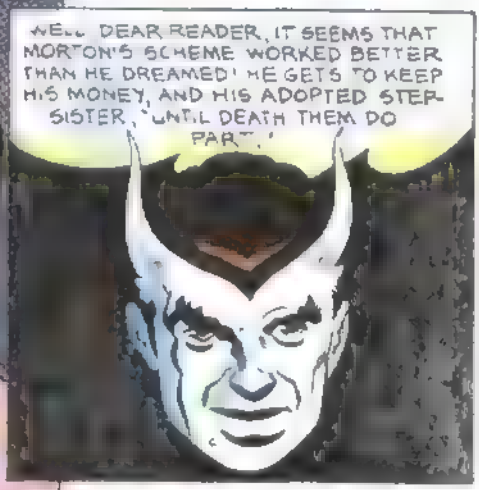
YOUR GREED HAS DESTROYED YOU! NOW... I'M TAKING OVER YOUR BODY!

THERE..MADE IT! I GUESS MY SUPERNATURAL STUDIES PAID OFF! I ALWAYS TOLD NATHAN HE WORE HIS SHOES TOO TIGHT! I'LL CHANGE ALL THAT... AND BUY SOME DECENT NECKTIES TOO! I CAN WELL AFFORD TO INDULGE MY EVERY WHIM!


I KNEW NATHAN COULDN'T RESIST ENTERING THIS ROOM. BUT HE DIDN'T THINK I'D BE HERE! NOW, I'VE GOT MY MONEY AND HIS BODY! HA-HA! HA-HA!

NATHAN, DARLING! YOU WERE RIGHT! YOU DID FIND MORTON'S MONEY!
RUN ALONG, BEERA... I'LL BE BUSY WITH MY MONEY FOR AWHILE!

SILLY BOY! YOU KNOW MORTON WILLED EVERYTHING TO ME. IT'S MY MONEY. BUT I'LL GIVE YOU SOME. JUST AS LONG AS WE STAY TOGETHER! HA-HA! HA-HA! HA-HA!

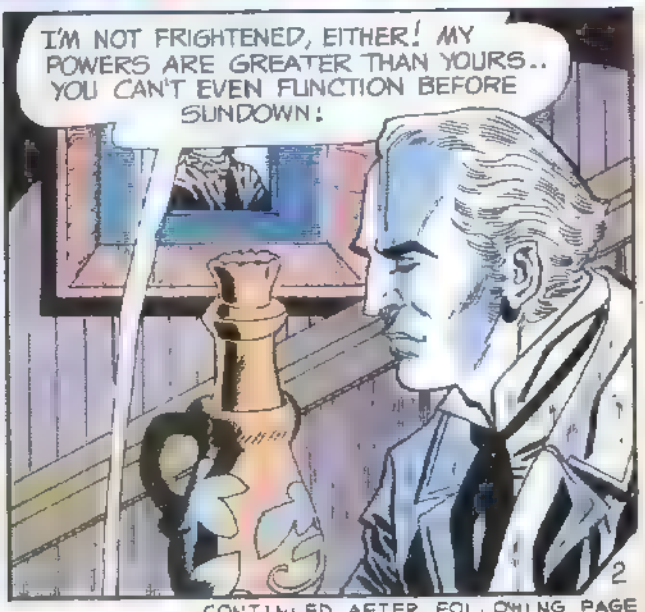

WELL DEAR READER, IT SEEMS THAT MORTON'S SCHEME WORKED BETTER THAN HE DREAMED! HE GETS TO KEEP HIS MONEY, AND HIS ADOPTED STEP-SISTER, 'UNTIL DEATH THEM DO PART.'

END

CRUSH
BUMP
KAPOW
HEH HEH. LISTEN TO THAT! DON'T APPROACH THE OLD WYBRY MANSION TOO CLOSELY TONIGHT.. FOR THE CAUSE OF THAT UPROAR ISN'T ANY ONE YOU'D WANT TO MEET ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS! OR ANY NIGHT FOR THAT MATTER!
D +48
THAT TREACHEROUS, ACCURSED, GREEDY, TWO-FACED WITCH IS COMING HERE AGAIN!
MR. CHESTER WYBRY IS REFERRING TO HIS WIDOW, OF COURSE..
..WHO IS NOW ON HER WAY HERE.
NOTICE ANYTHING? YES I THOUGHT YOU WOULD. SHE'S VERY YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE YET I SAID SHE IS THE WIDOW OF CHESTER WYBRY WHO DIED 150 YEARS AGO.

HEH, HEH! HERE SHE IS LENORE WYBRY, RETURNED FOR HER ANNUAL VISIT TO WYBRY HOUSE! YOU SEE.. SHE COLLECTS THE INCOME FROM THE ESTATE ONLY IF SHE ESTABLISHES RESIDENCY BY AN ANNUAL VISIT! ONLY THIS YEAR.. SHE'S IN FOR A SURPRISE...

SECOND Honeymoon



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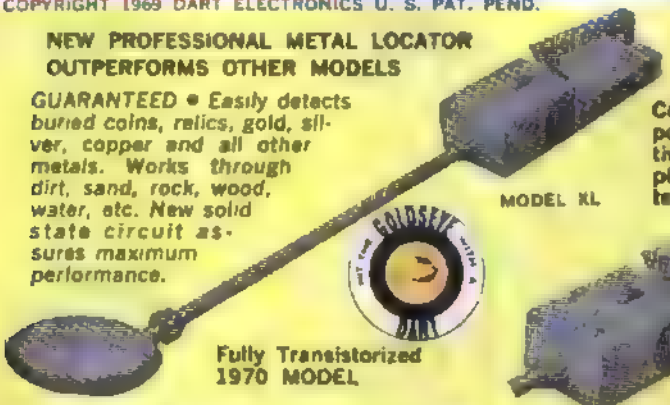

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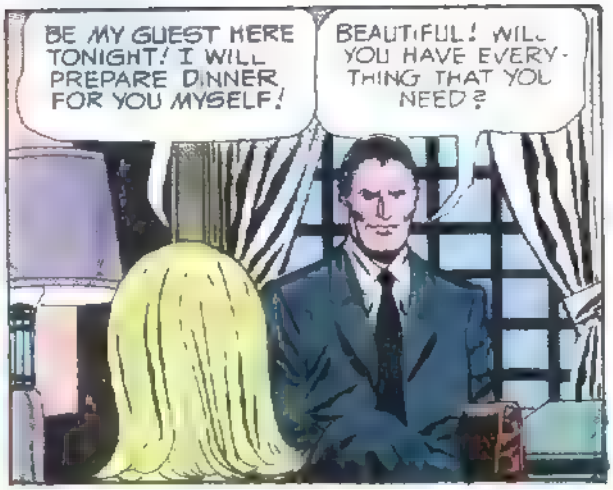
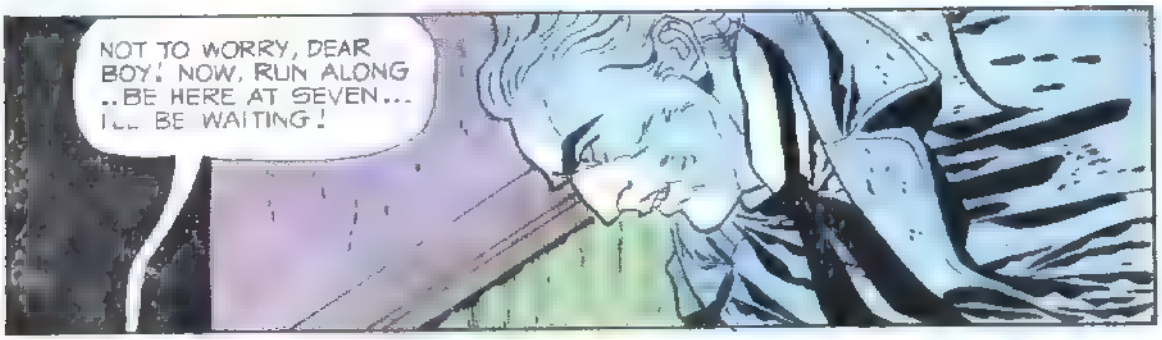
YOU'RE HIDING UP THERE, CHESTER! YOU'RE A FOOL IN DEATH JUST AS YOU WERE A SPINELESS WEAKLING WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO YOUR GRAVE, CHESTER YOU DON'T BOTHER ME A BIT!
LET'S FACE IT ..YOU BORE ME!
TSK, TSK.. YOU MISSED AGAIN!
ON THIS DAY, A LAWYER FOR THE WYBRY ESTATE ALWAYS COMES TO WYBRY HOUSE TO PRESENT DOCUMENTS TO MRS. CHESTER WYBRY FOR HER SIGNATURE! SHE HAS CREDENTIALS THAT PURPORTEDLY SHOW HER TO BE A FIFTH GENERATION DESCENDANT OF LENORE WYBRY !
MISS WYBRY? I AM PHILIP HIGGS..I HAVE SOME PAPERS FOR YOU TO SIGN!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MR. HIGGS! COME IN, PLEASE!
3.

RATHER UNTIDY! WE'VE BEEN PAYING TO HAVE WYBRY HOUSE MAINTAINED..IF THIS IS HOW IT IS BEING DONE...
IT'S ALWAYS VERY NEAT, MR. HIGGS! PERHAPS VANDALS BROKE IN LAST NIGHT! DO NOT WORRY..THEY CAN CLEAN UP AFTER I LEAVE!
SIGNING THESE DREARY DOCUMENTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A CHORE, MR. HIGGS!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO COME HERE, MISS WYBRY ..I HOPE TO SERVE YOU OFTEN IN THE FUTURE.
DIG THIS WEIRD SCENE, YOU GHOST-GRABBERS! CHESTER WYBRY'S WIDOW MUST BE ABOUT 175 YEARS OLD..SHE'S TURNING YOUNG HIGGS ON!
I BELIEVE I MUST COMPOSE AN ADDENDUM TO THE ORIGINAL CODICIL, MISS WYBRY! NOW, THE MODIFICATIONS WILL BE...
NICE HANDWRITING!
YOU'VE GOT BEAUTIFUL EYES, MISS WYBRY.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D NOTICE, MR. HIGGS!

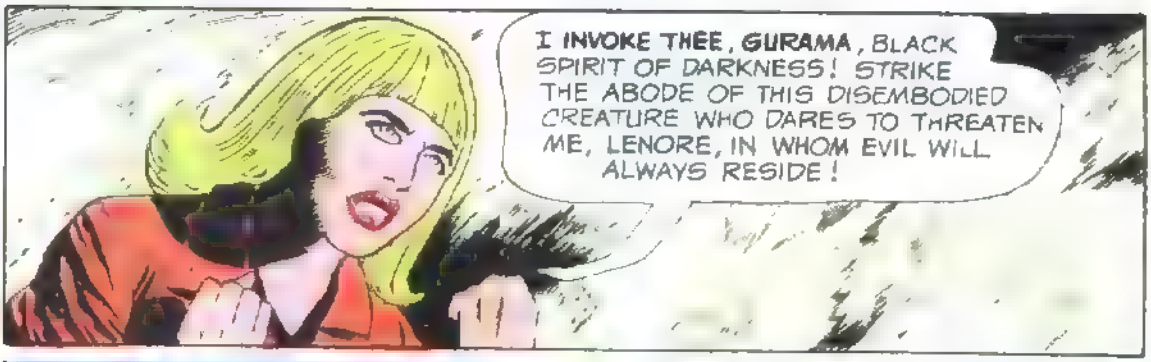
MISS WYBRY. THAT IS, LENORE. THIS PAPER WILL BE READY FOR YOUR SIGNATURE TOMORROW. MEANWHILE WILL YOU HAVE DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?
I SHALL BE QUITE HAPPY TO DO SO.


BE MY GUEST HERE TONIGHT! I WILL PREPARE DINNER FOR YOU MYSELF!
BEAUTIFUL! WILL YOU HAVE EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED?


NOT TO WORRY, DEAR BOY! NOW, RUN ALONG ..BE HERE AT SEVEN... I'LL BE WAITING!

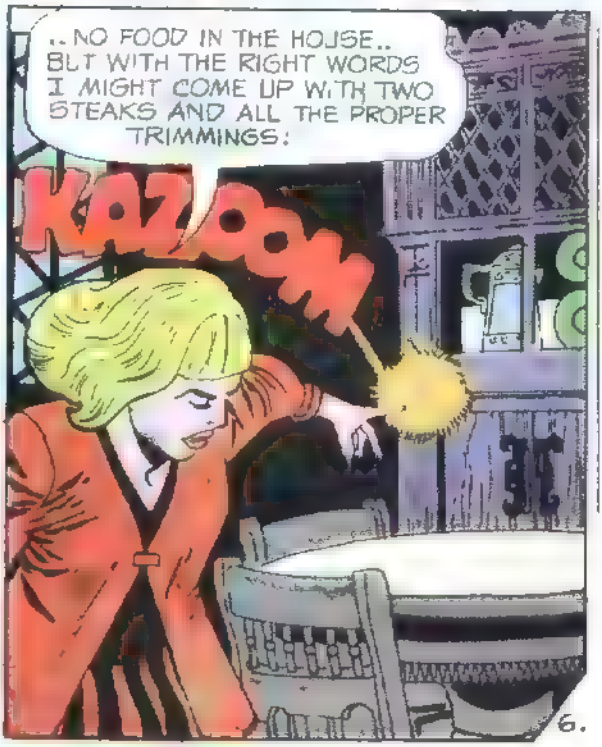
GOOD HEAVENS.
CRACH
POKKON!

YOU FOOL! IF I CHOOSE -I CAN RAZE THIS SHACK..OR HAVE LIGHTNING STRIKE AND BURN IT TO THE GROUND!
I THINK YOU NEED A LESSON!


I INVOKE THEE, GURAMA, BLACK SPIRIT OF DARKNESS! STRIKE THE ABODE OF THIS DISEMBODIED CREATURE WHO DARES TO THREATEN ME, LENORE, IN WHOM EVIL WILL ALWAYS RESIDE!

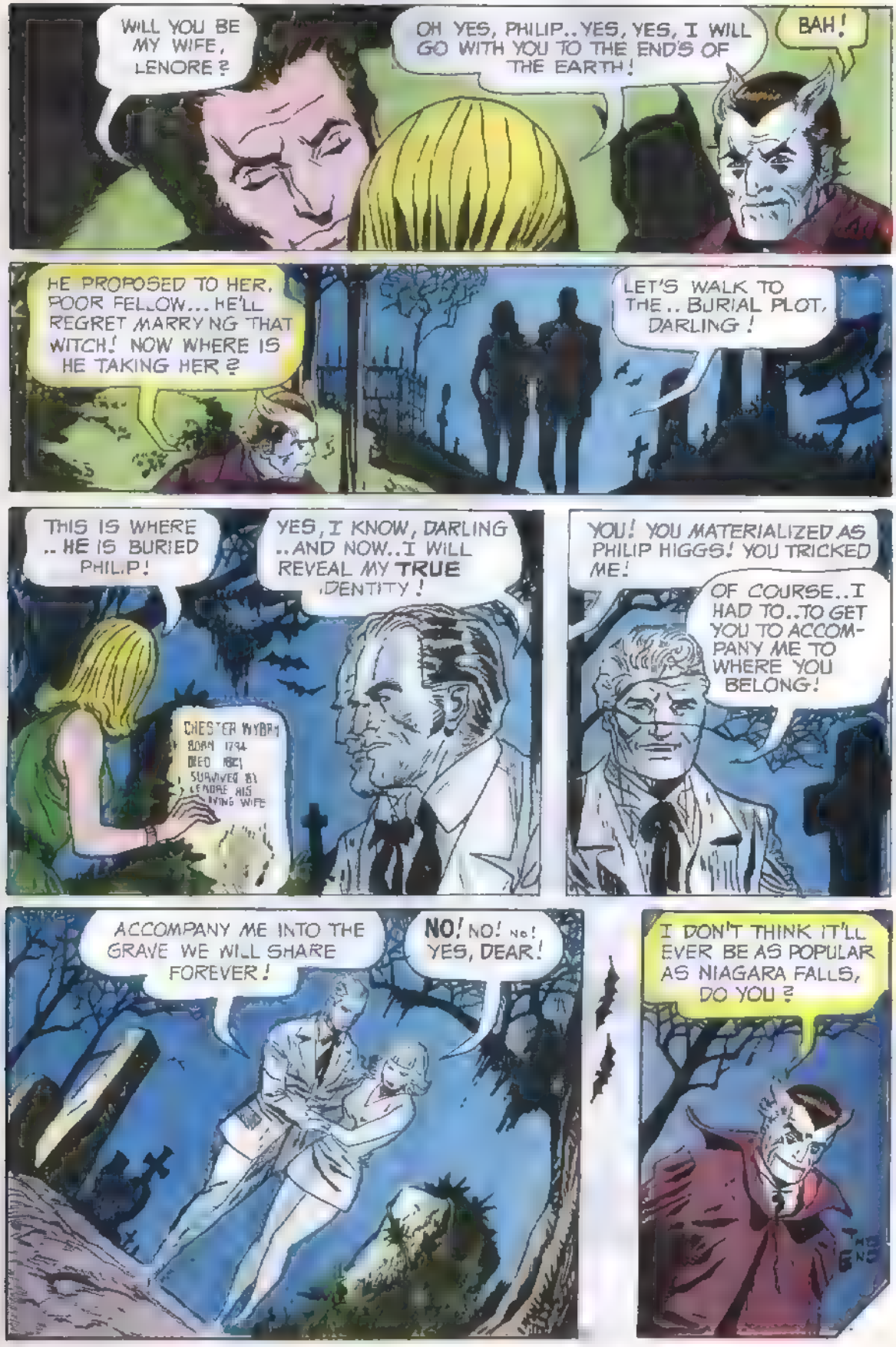
CRRRAAAK

..NOW.. SHALL I MAKE IT BURN? SHALL I, CHESTER? NO? WELL.. THAT'S BETTER! NOW..I HAVE TO PREPARE DINNER!


..NO FOOD IN THE HOUSE.. BUT WITH THE RIGHT WORDS I MIGHT COME UP WITH TWO STEAKS AND ALL THE PROPER TRIMMINGS:
KAZOOM

HMMM.. LIKE IT, CHESTER?
YOU ALWAYS WERE AN ARTFUL ONE, LENORE! WHY ARE YOU GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE?
PHILIP HIGGS IS A VERY CHARMING MAN, CHESTER..AND I'VE BEEN TERRIBLY LONELY ALL THESE YEARS!
IT'S ODD THAT I SHOULD BE ATTRACTED TO HIM.. AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY A MORTAL!
HERE'S THE OBJECT OF LENORE'S AFFECTIONS ..A PROMISING YOUNG LAWYER WHO BELIEVES LENORE TO BE ONLY A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL!
FLOWERS, LENORE ..FOR YOU!
LENORE NEVER RISKED BEING IN THIS HOUSE AFTER DARK.. THE GHOST OF CHESTER HAS MUCH GREATER POWERS AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN!
TO YOU, MY DEAR!
OH, PHILIP..WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME THAT WAY..I MELT!

THERE SHOULD BE THREE PRESENCES AT THAT TABLE! WHERE IS CHESTER WYBRY'S GHOST?
DANCE, PHILIP? I..I SCARCELY KNOW THESE MODERN STEPS!
I PREFER THE OLD-FASHIONED DANCES MYSELF, LENORE!
LOOK..THEY DANCE BEAUTIFULLY TOGETHER! PHILIP IS DOING A...IT CAN'T BE..BUT IT IS... THEY'RE DANCING A MINUET!
PHILIP, YOU DARLING... THIS IS DELIGHTFUL!
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, LENORE!
PHILIP... HOLD ME!
YES, MY DARLING!
HE'S A RECKLESS FOOL..HE DOESN'T REALIZE THE KIND OF GIRL HE'S GETTING INVOLVED WITH!
A BRIGHT YOUNG LAWYER WITH A FINE FUTURE..HE COULD HAVE ANY GIRL AT ALL!


WILL YOU BE MY WIFE, LENORE?
OH YES, PHILIP.. YES, YES, I WILL GO WITH YOU TO THE END'S OF THE EARTH!
BAH!
HE PROPOSED TO HER, POOR FELLOW... HE'LL REGRET MARRYING THAT WITCH! NOW WHERE IS HE TAKING HER?
LET'S WALK TO THE.. BURIAL PLOT, DARLING!
THIS IS WHERE .. HE IS BURIED PHILIP!
YES, I KNOW, DARLING .. AND NOW.. I WILL REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY!
CHESTER WYBRN BORN 1734 DIED 1801 SURVIVED BY LENORE HIS LOVING WIFE
YOU! YOU MATERIALIZED AS PHILIP HIGGS! YOU TRICKED ME!
OF COURSE.. I HAD TO.. TO GET YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO WHERE YOU BELONG!
ACCOMPANY ME INTO THE GRAVE WE WILL SHARE FOREVER!
NO! NO! No! YES, DEAR!
I DON'T THINK IT'LL EVER BE AS POPULAR AS NIAGARA FALLS, DO YOU?
THE END

Dear Mr Dedd:

What does the L stand for in your name? **(My full name, as all you Halloween cats know is Mr. L. Dedd.)** Oh well, your comics are so great I'm spending my bread for your books instead of the competition.

The last issue of **Ghostly Tales** was great. But when I read a **Charlton** story I like, I can't always find the name of the artist and writer on the title page. Won't you please give us this information from now on?

I also like **Ghost Manor** and **Dr. Graves** very much. I wish you had more ghost comics as these are the kind I enjoy most.

Yours truly,
Wm. M.

I think you're putting me on, WM. The L stands for Living, Mr. Living Dedd. If you take a good look at me, you'll see that, although I may not be a corpse exactly, I'm really not long for this world.

As for the credit lines, some artists like to give themselves a byline, some writers insist on having their names added, and then again some don't. So, Charlton comics at times has bylined stories, at other times bylines are omitted. The important thing IS, Charlton always has great illustrations of real great stories, SO THERE!

Dear Mr Dedd:

Not long ago, I read in your comics a letter from Karen J. of Staten Island, N. Y., in which she described an old house in which there were strange noises and where a body was later found.

I've got an uncle on Staten Island who's in the real estate business. I told him about the house and the fact that the body was found and then it was torn down. My Uncle Bob asked the men he worked with about it and learned which house it was and we drove there.

Karen was right, there's no old house there now. They're building big split level houses in that neighborhood and the one on the spot where the old haunted house stood looks just the same as the others.

Uncle Bob and I went inside to look around. This was in August, a warm day, but it was cool inside. In fact, it seemed really **cold** in a few minutes. Uncle Bob and I heard footsteps in another room and he called out to them but whoever it was didn't answer. Then, we went looking for the workmen and a door fell on me, giving me a bump on the head.

Uncle Bob went into the next room and when I started to follow him I felt something or **someone** hold my shirt from behind. I swear I heard someone laughing in the room behind me. I ran outside and Uncle Bob came out a moment later, looking funny. He said there hadn't been any workmen in the house. When I told him about someone grabbing my shirt and then laughing, he told me it must've caught on a nail.

I never went back there. Uncle Bob had that house on his list for sale but he never went back either and he said he stays out of the neighborhood.

You're an expert, Mr Dedd. Do you think it was my imagination?

Sincerely,
KJS, Eliz., N. J.

Well, KJS, that's quite a yarn. A man in my position should be the last to doubt the presence of ghosts, spirits, or poltergeists anywhere but sometimes kids have lively imaginations.

I'm inclined to believe the purchasers of that new split-level might find the place a little crowded (with the ghost and all) for several reasons. From what you wrote, I think your Uncle Bob either saw or heard something there that shook him more than a little. Otherwise why wouldn't he try to sell the place just like any other new house? Secondly, he DID hear footsteps and went looking for a workman clumping around. ALSO -- you say a door fell on you giving you a bump on the head. Normally, people walk INTO doors but such items don't usually fall ON kids. I image the door was just balanced, without the hinge pins being in place but MAYBE the previous tenant helped it along somehow!

We'll add your letter to the file on supernatural events. In our opinion, this is a legitimate incident involving the supernatural and maybe some day we'll investigate the site personally.

Dear Mr Dedd:

Occasionally, in a story or even in your letter page, you refer to a 'Ouija board' and sometimes you seem to treat these things seriously.

My father and I both think Ouija Boards are silly but my mother and her sister believe in it. My Aunt Beth lives with us, you see. There are four of us in the family and sometimes Mom and Aunt Beth make Dad and I (I'm a boy, twelve years old) sit with our hands on the board. I feel real stupid and so does Dad but Aunt Beth and Mom swear by the messages they say they get from the board.

Sincerely,
Billy

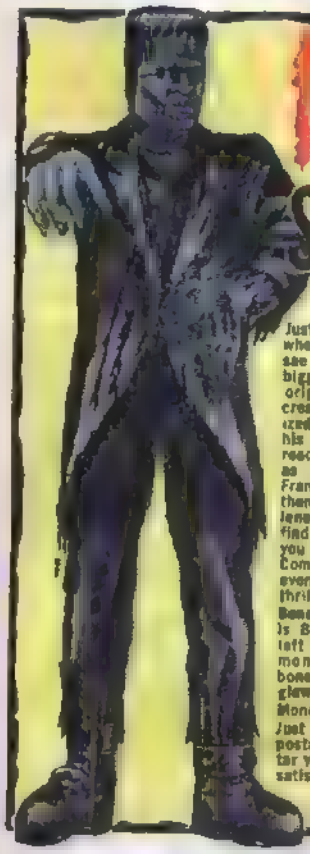
We wish we could give you a definite answer on Ouija, Billy. We've known a few hysterical types who believed every wiggle of the three-legged gadget but there've been a few serious types who claimed positive results.

That was a funny message you received advising you to leave Al's room. We received this letter about five weeks ago and you did say you'd write again. We'll be waiting to hear from you, Billy.

We hope you write soon to say you're all right.

Ye Ed.

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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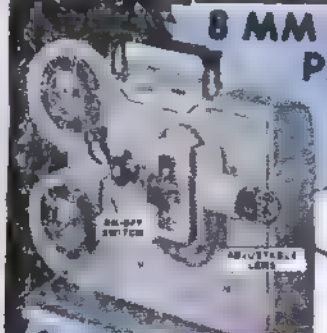

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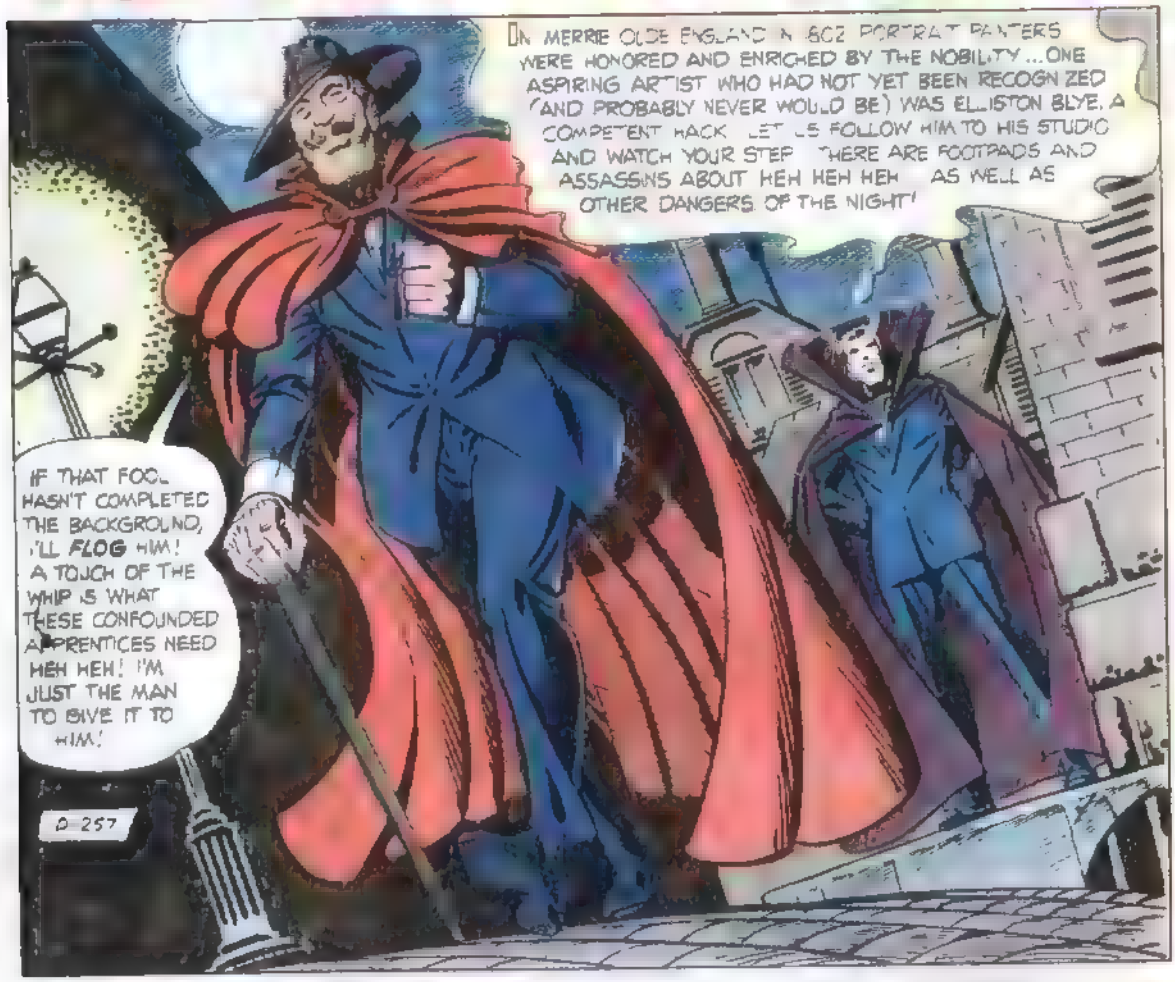
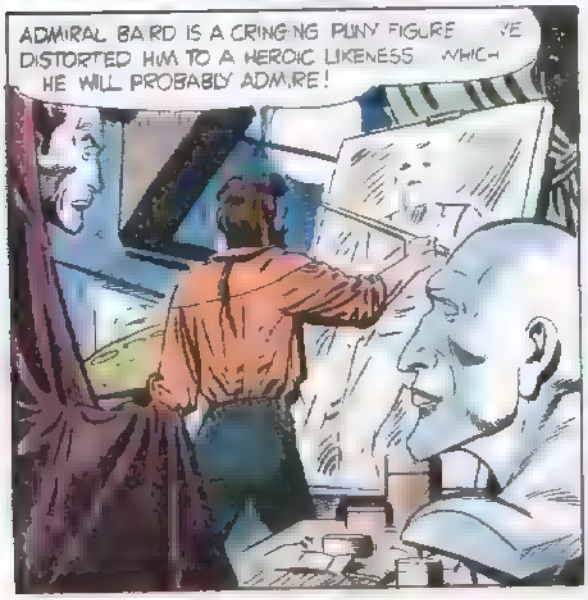
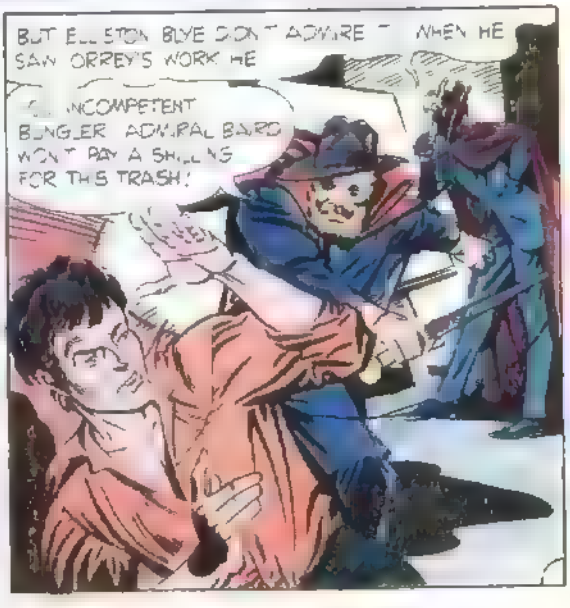
THE WORK OF GENIUS


IN MERRIE OLDE ENGLAND IN SO2 PORTRAIT PAINTERS WERE HONORED AND ENRICHED BY THE NOBILITY ...ONE ASPIRING ARTIST WHO HAD NOT YET BEEN RECOGN ZED (AND PROBABLY NEVER WOULD BE) WAS EL..ISTON BLYE, A COMPETENT HACK LET US FOLLOW HIM TO HIS STUDIO AND WATCH YOUR STEP THERE ARE FOOTPADS AND ASSASSINS ABOUT HEH HEH HEH AS WELL AS OTHER DANGERS OF THE NIGHT!
IF THAT FOOL HASN'T COMPLETED THE BACKGROUND, I'LL FLOG HIM! A TOUCH OF THE WHIP IS WHAT THESE CONFOUNDED APPRENTICES NEED HEH HEH! I'M JUST THE MAN TO GIVE IT TO HIM!
D-257




BUT ELLSTON BLYE DON'T ADMIRE WHEN HE SAW ORREY'S WORK HE
INCOMPETENT BUNGLER ADMIRAL BAIRD WON'T PAY A SHILLING FOR THIS TRASH!

DON'T HIT ME WITH THE CANE AGAIN, MASTER BLYE, OR...
YOU THREATEN ME, YOU SCOUNDREL? THE CONSTABLES WILL THRASH YOU EVEN WORSE IF I COMPLAIN THAT MY APPRENTICE IS NOT OBEDIENT!
I'LL MAKE YOU CRAWL, ARTHUR ORREY! NOW . START ON THE LADY MARY PORTRAIT. . WORK ALL NIGHT, IF YOU MUST... I'M LOCKING YOU IN AND YOU WON'T BE FED UNTIL IT'S FINISHED!
LATER THE FOLLOWING DAY, ADMIRAL BARD'S COACH AND FOUR CLOPPED OVER FROM TRAFALGAR SQUARE AND
IF THAT STUPID OLD SAILOR REFUSES TO PAY FOR THIS PORTRAIT I'LL FLOG THAT APPRENTICE TILL HE CAN'T WALK!
HMMMM.
I CAN SEE ONE OR TWO DETAILS THAT NEED RETOUCHING YOUR LORDSHIP, HEH HEH!
RETOUCH IT? I'LL HAVE YOU KEELHAULED IF YOU TOUCH IT YOU STUPID DABBLER! IT BRINGS OUT THE REAL ME!
2

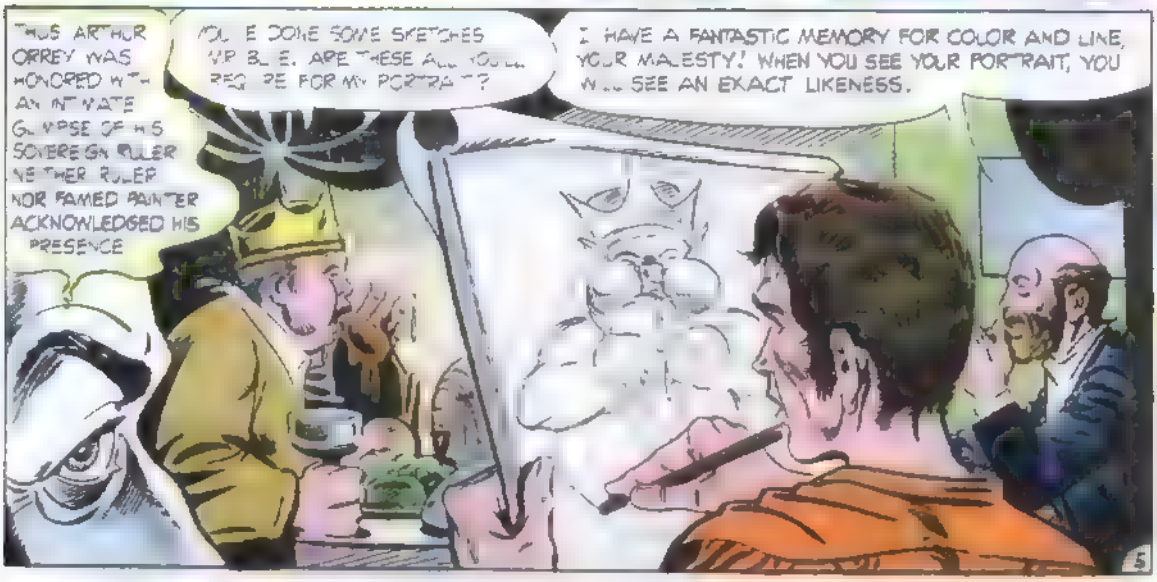
SUDDENLY ELLSTON BLYE IS FAMOUS ALL OVER LONDON.... ADMIRAL BARD ORDERS HIS JUNIOR ADMIRALS TO HAVE BLYE PAINT THEIR PORTRAITS
YOU MEAN IT WILL BE FINISHED IN A WEEK, MASTER BLYE?
A SPLENDID PORTRAIT TAKES THAT LONG EXCELLENCY!
NEXT!
YOU'RE CONTRACTING FOR TOO MUCH WORK, SIR! I CANNOT..
SILENCE! ARE YOU AWARE UNDER THE INDENTURE LAWS I CAN HAVE YOU IMPRISONED IN DARTMOOR FOR LIFE?
AVAST THERE! ALL HANDS ON DECK!
THERE'S ADMIRAL BELSON! SKETCH HIS LIKENESS AS WELL AS SMYTHE-BLAIR'S.. YOU'LL FINISH 'EM BOTH TONIGHT.
AND, SO ELLSTON BLYE DROVE HIS UNFORTUNATE ASSISTANT TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION.. AS HE BECAME RICH AND FAMOUS
LADY MARY IS ABSOLUTELY ELATED WITH HER PORTRAIT, MR BLYE
HIS MAJESTY VIEWED MY PORTRAIT AND PROMOTED ME ON THE SPOT SAYING I WAS HIS IDEAL OF WHAT A FIGHTING ADMIRAL SHOULD LOOK LIKE!
3

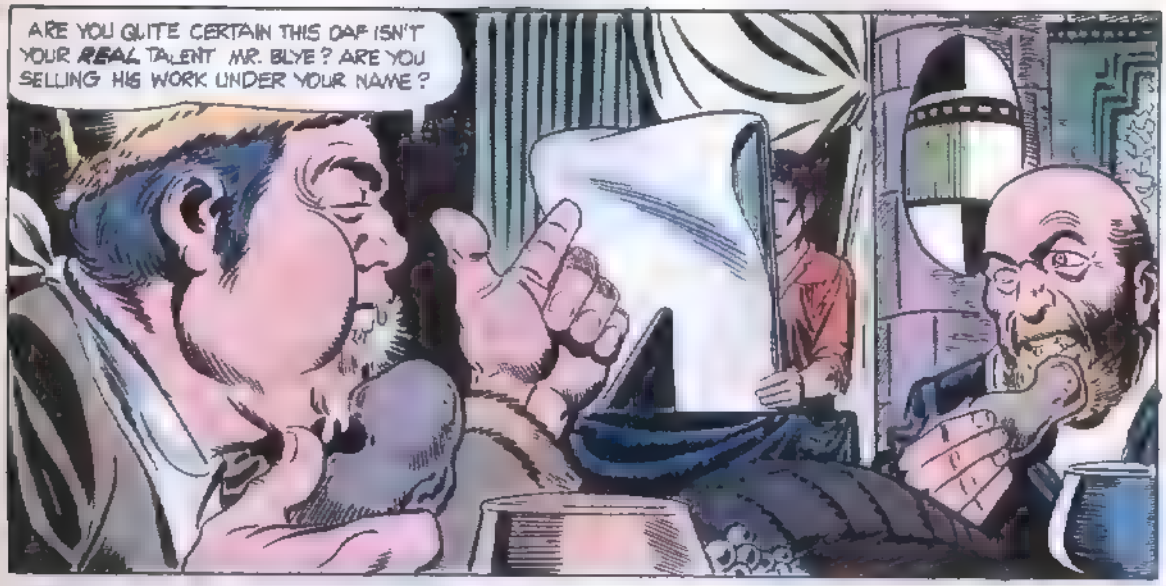
AND WHILE ELLSTON BLYE WAS TAKING BOWS DRINKING CHAMPAGNE AND EATING CAVIAR IN THE STUDIO UPSTAIRS ARTHUR ORREY WAS FEVERISHLY PAINTING PORTRAITS .
THAT MONSTER WILL HAVE WE BEATEN IF HIS PORTRAIT ISN'T FINISHED
GETTING WEAK WITH HUNGER MY HAND IS SHAKING!
BLYE IS AN UNTALENTED HACK BUT HE'S GETTING FAMOUS ON MY WORK! I... I WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER....
I'M DYING OF STARVATION AND OVERWORK
THEN THE GREATEST HONOR AN PAINTER COULD RECEIVE WAS ACCORDED ELLSTON BLYE HE WAS SUMMONED BY THE KING AND
AND YOU MAY PAINT MY PORTRAIT MR. BLYE IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY.
TOO BUSY, YOUR HIGHNESS? I WOULD WORK MY FINGERS TO THE BONE FOR YOU YOUR MAJESTY.

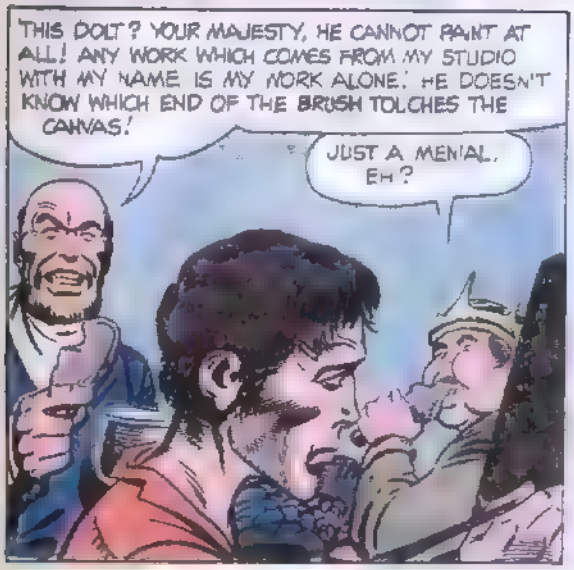
HURRYING FROM THE ROYAL PRESENCE ELISTON BLVENT TO HIS STUDIO WHERE HE BEGAN HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTHUR ORREY WITH A SEVERE BEATING!
PLEASE MASTER ..YOU DESTROY ME
I PANT! I'LL SKIN YOU ALIVE YOU LAZY ROGUE! YOU MUST MEND YOUR WAYS

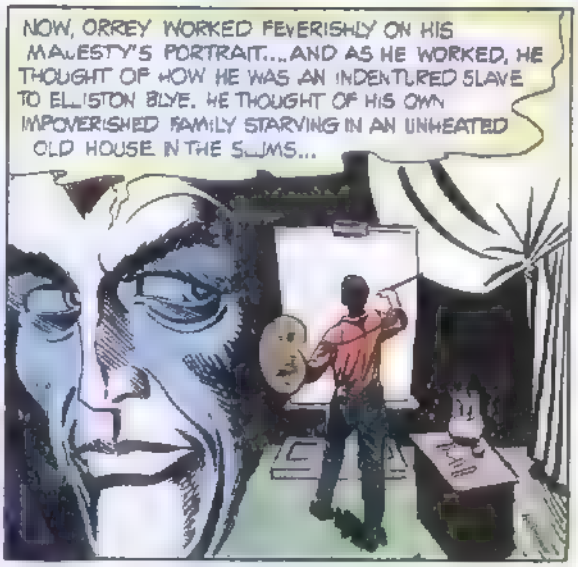
YOU'LL GET MORE OF THE SAME IF YOU DON'T DO BETTER WORK ORREY! NOW GET UP .BEGIN MIXING COLORS FOR HIS MAJESTY'S PORTRAIT!

YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO THE PALACE WHERE I WILL MAKE PRELIMINARY SKETCHES OF HIS HIGHNESS, YOU WILL ALSO SKETCH FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. UNDERSTAND?
YES. MASTER.


THUS ARTHUR ORREY WAS HONORED WITH AN INTIMATE GLIMPSE OF HIS SOVEREIGN RULER NEITHER RULER NOR FAMED PAINTER ACKNOWLEDGED HIS PRESENCE
YOU'VE DONE SOME SKETCHES VERY WELL. ARE THESE ALL YOU'LL REQUIRE FOR MY PORTRAIT?
I HAVE A FANTASTIC MEMORY FOR COLOR AND LINE, YOUR MAJESTY! WHEN YOU SEE YOUR PORTRAIT, YOU WILL SEE AN EXACT LIKENESS.




THIS DOLT? YOUR MAJESTY, HE CANNOT PAINT AT ALL! ANY WORK WHICH COMES FROM MY STUDIO WITH MY NAME IS MY WORK ALONE! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH END OF THE BRUSH TOUCHES THE CANVAS!
JUST A MENIAL, EH?


NOW, ORREY WORKED FEVERISHLY ON HIS MAJESTY'S PORTRAIT...AND AS HE WORKED, HE THOUGHT OF HOW HE WAS AN INDENTURED SLAVE TO ELLISTON BLYE. HE THOUGHT OF HIS OWN IMPOVERISHED FAMILY STARVING IN AN UNHEATED OLD HOUSE IN THE SLUMS...

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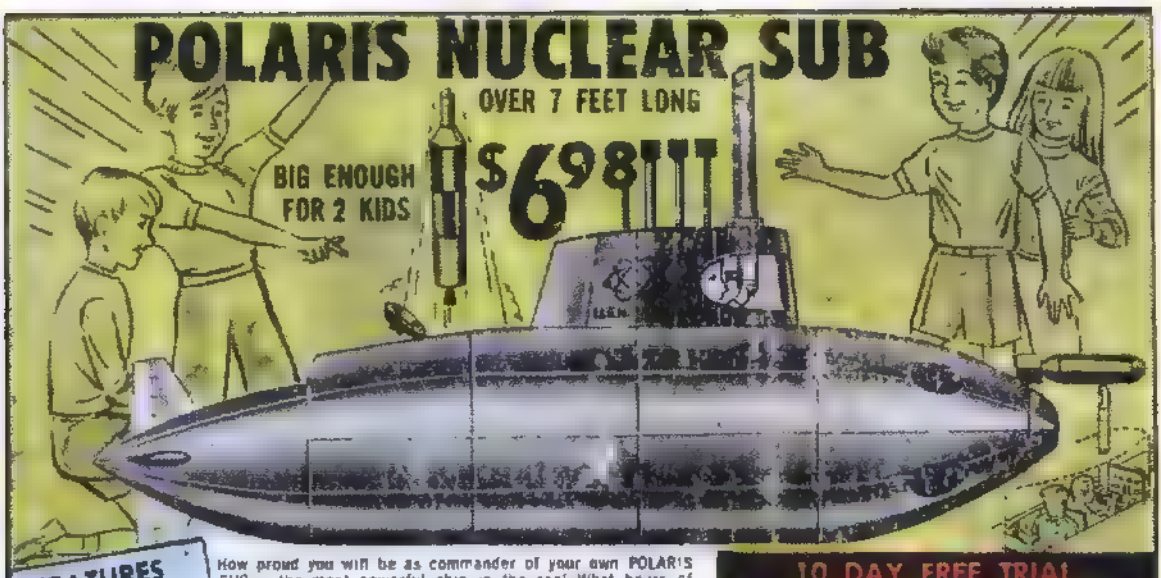

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(please print carefully)

THE PORTRAIT WAS TAKING SHAPE AND SUDDENLY ELLISTON BYE WAS BEHIND ORREY SEEING THE TRUTH ORREY WAS TRYING TO GET ON CANVAS
YOU FOOL YOU STUPID, TRAITOROUS IDIOT HIS MAJESTY WOULD HANG ME IF HE SAW THIS.
I'LL THRASH SOME SENSE INTO YOU.
EH? WHAT'S THIS ORREY MORE PLAY-ACTING?
HE'S NOT FEIGNING IT THIS TIME THE RASCAL'S DEAD!
I'LL HAVE HIM HAULED TO THE BURYING GROUND WHEN I FINISH THIS.
YAWNNN! I'M OUT OF PRACTICE I'M TIRED ...
BUT WHILE ELLISTON BYE SLEPT SOMETHING STRANGE WAS HAPPENING IN THAT TRAGIC STUDIO.
SNOOORRE

I'LL BE DASHED I FINISHED HIS MAJESTY'S PORTRAIT RAWTHER GOOD AT THAT!
NOTHING LIKE THE MANSTER'S TOUCH I ALWAYS SAY
I'LL BRING IT TO THE PALACE AT ONCE.
LET US ALL ACCOMPANY THIS DASTARD TO THE PALACE....
FINISHED ALREADY! I AM GLAD YOU ARE HERE MR BLYE! I AM LOW IN SPIRITS THIS MORNING!
YOU'LL CHEER UP WHEN YOU SEE THIS YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU DID THIS, BLYE YOU ALONE?
OF COURSE YOUR MAJESTY. 'TIS ALL MINE.
AND THROUGH SOME ALCHEMY OF THE DEAD ARTIST (WHOSE HAND FINISHED WHAT BLUNDERER BLYE HAD BEGUN) THE PORTRAIT OF THE KING SHOWED HIM AS HE REALLY WAS...
AND, SO....ELLISTON BLYE RECEIVES HIS FINAL REWARD.
End

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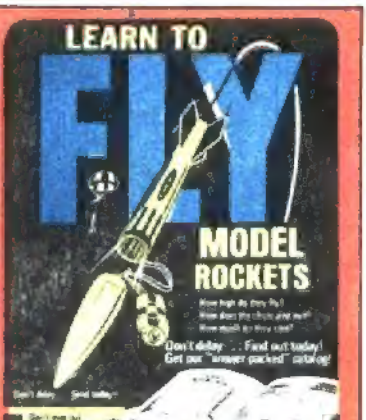

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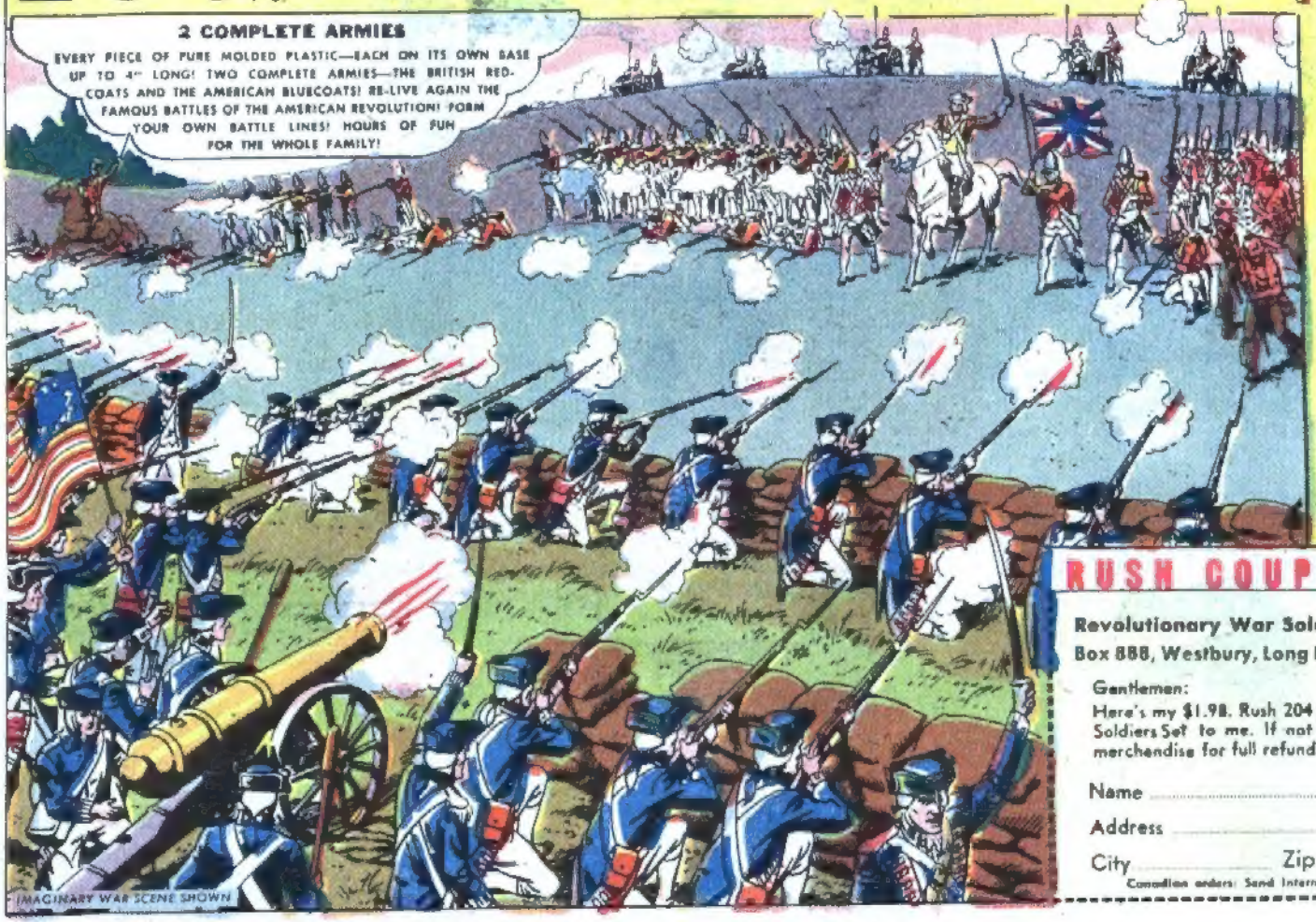

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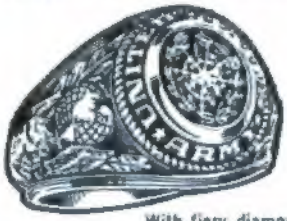

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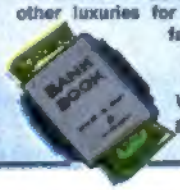

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